

scription of this seal cannot be found, but many of the seals are still in existence in an almost perfect state of preservation. Of this seal Col. W. L. Saunders writes: "It had two faces or sides and made its impression upon a cake of beeswax covered with paper, three inches in diameter and near a quarter inch thick, and was the last State seal so made, the succeeding ones having one face only and being applied directly to the paper-writing to be sealed. This indeed had come to be the practice on ordinary occasions years before. Governor Tryon states in one of his dispatches that since 1750, at the request of the inhabitants living remote from the Secretary's office, paper had been substituted for parchment for grants of land and impressions on the faces of the grants for the heavy pendant wax seals. The bulk and weight of the grants to be sent out, if of parchment with pendant wax seals, caused great 'inconveniency and expense' in delivery to remote settlers. Whereas if of paper with seals impressed thereon 'one or two horsemen could take up to them all the grants issued at a court of claims.' It had been found from experience too, he said, in this climate, that parchment was more liable to destruction by insects and little vermin than paper."

The seal of 1778 may be described as follows:

On one side is the figure of Minerva or Liberty holding in the right hand the pole with cap and in the left hand with arm extended is held a large scroll on which appears in large capital letters the word "Constitution." Under the figure appear the words, IN LEGIBUS SALUS. Around the circumference are the words, THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA. On the other side of the shield is the figure of a woman, probably Plenty. The right arm is folded across her breast and in her right hand inclining towards her left shoulder is held a distaff. In the left hand with arm extended is held an ear of corn. In the distance beyond a tree browses a cow. Under these figures appear the word and letters INDEPENDENCE—MDCCLXXVI. Around the circumference appear the words O. FORTUNATOS, NIMIUM. SUA. SI. BONA. NORINT. COLONOS., which may be translated, How fortunate are the colonists who know their own good.

In December, 1791, the General Assembly in session at New Berne again passed an act authorizing and requiring the Governor to procure for the State a seal, and provided that it should